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Bonfire traditions continue

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

Freshmen and their Sophomore Advisors and Resident Assistants sit around a fire, toasting marshmallows and hot dogs. A few are sitting on top of the foundation of the Homecoming Bonfire – an orderly pile of wood and hay – and peering into the darkness. Meanwhile, on the perimeter of the field, upperclassmen are looking for an opportunity to strike. These students are participating in a new year of Bonfire tradition.

The nighttime upperclassmen raids are just one part of the long, evolving history of the Rose-Hulman Bonfire. According to Erik Hayes, there are records of the Rose Bonfire as early as 1932, though the tradition started a few years earlier. “It started as a Halloween tradition. It was held at 9th and Walnut, back when Rose Poly was still inside Terre Haute,” he explained.

The original bonfires were formed from railroad ties that students acquired. Around 1942, a telephone pole was erected in the center of the fire, with an outhouse perched at the top. Around the early 1960s, the tele-

phone pole was replaced by a center pillar of wood, on which the outhouse is now placed. It became a tradition to build the Bonfire as many ties high as your year of graduation. For students graduating in 1978, this meant 78 ties. As the years went on, this idea was scrapped as the height of the fire became unreasonable.

Building the Bonfire started as a project in which all students participated, but during the ‘60s or early ‘70s, it became a freshman class project. In the early ‘90s, when all students were required to take military history during their freshman and sophomore years, Army ROTC took over construction management and organized the freshman builders by hall.

In 1996, the SRC was completed on top of the original Bonfire site at the new campus. Since there was no place to put the Bonfire, the school decided to cancel it. “We weren’t going to let that tradition go away,” said Hayes. Hayes and five other RAs started selling the first Bonfire shirts, at around \$10, to raise money to support the parts of the Bonfire the administration had supported in the past, such as snacks for students building the fire. They also



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn

Freshmen continue the building of the bonfire Thursday after a set-back involving chemically treated rail ties, which are illegal to burn. Four-by-fours were brought in to complete the structure.

found a permanent site. “Once again, it became every student working on it. We all had to work together to get it built in time.”

Though the origin of the Bonfire raids is unknown, “it generally started as a way for upperclassmen to mess with the freshmen,” says Hayes. The upperclassmen try to deconstruct part or even

all of the Bonfire so the freshmen will have to guard the Bonfire or work very hard to complete it on time.

Freshmen now guard the Bonfire every night after construction begins. Freshman Shantel Strode explained that she was guarding the Bonfire because “I love bonfires... I can’t wait to see

what happens when the real one goes.”

Freshman Mechanical Engineering major Chris Leibs explained that he was guarding because “everyone is here! It’s conceivably one of the best things I could do with my time.”

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Rickert, Allison return from sabbaticals

Alex Clerc
News Editor

Wouldn’t it be great if every seven years, you had the chance to take a year off from your career to work on projects that are important to you? In most careers, this would be considered a luxury.

But every seven years, our professors may elect to take a year off from teaching to do just that. This is the third installment of a series of articles highlighting the accomplishments of our professors who went on sabbatical last year.

For his second sabbatical, Professor of Mathematics John Rickert traveled to Baltimore, Maryland to do math for the government at the National Security Agency (NSA). Rickert worked at the NSA headquarters at Fort Meade, located 15 miles southwest of Baltimore.

The NSA has two core missions: code-making (devising ways to keep American communication secure) and code-breaking (deciphering foreign signals).

The NSA headquarters consists of two high-rise office structures and an estimated 10 acres of underground facilities. The headquarters employs at least 20,000 and claims to be the largest employer of mathematicians in the nation.

Rickert worked at the NSA during the 2004-2005 school year. Because of the classified nature of his work, he cannot discuss the details of his projects. However, Rickert could share a few reflections on his experience: “The NSA is very technical and very broad in scope. All the math classes we teach here, however esoteric, were being applied in some way.”

Rickert also helped coach a local high school math team during the school year, and during both summers of his sabbatical, he was a teacher at a summer program for high school students called the Research Science Institute (RSI). The RSI is a six-week program that gets high school students exposure to undergraduate research in mathematics, science, and engineering. In the summer of 2004, the RSI was held at Cal Tech and in

2005 it was at MIT.

Professor of Chemistry Bruce Allison’s previous sabbaticals included research on polycarbonates at Purdue, exploring superconducting organic crystals at IU, and working on motor oil ad-

All the math classes we teach here, however esoteric, were being applied in some way.

—John Rickert

ditives for Exxon Chemical. But for his most recent sabbatical last year, Allison elected to work full-time at Rose-Hulman Ventures. During the 2004-2005 academic year, he worked with 6 different students on four different projects.

Allison believes that taking time off from teaching to go on sabbatical is very beneficial. “You stay current, either in industry or academia. When you’re teaching, you’re really busy and you end up ignoring the latest developments in your field. It’s nice to have a change and get refreshment,” said Allison.

Allison also had very positive things to say about the Ventures experience: “I recommend that all students who want to work in industry work at Ventures. It’s an excellent thing to do.”

Ross Poland, currently a junior chemistry major, worked under Allison during the spring and summer terms of 2005 for a company called Griffin Analytical. Griffin Analytical, based in West Lafayette, had developed a new

type of gas chromatographer/mass spectrometer (GC/MS). Poland was tasked with using the instrument to develop experiments to be used in undergraduate education.

Poland came up with two experiments: one involving the determination of the octane rating of gasoline and one dealing with the extraction of limonene and other compounds from lemon and orange peels using supercritical carbon dioxide.

Through his work, Poland became more familiar with the world of research: “I gained insight into how research works. It doesn’t happen four hours at a time like the class and lab periods do. There’s a lot of trial and a lot of error that go into developing anything in the lab.”

Poland said his favorite part of the experience was “learning to interpret the different spectra I produced using the mass spectrometer. Spectroscopy is one of my favorite parts of chemistry.”

Continued on Page 3...

News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
Assassins is back.	Everybody loves Katamari Damacy.	Probation as punishment for the Piston-punching Pacers.	Get behind the team.	Bite my pie.
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Classifieds

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Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn
Freshmen work together.

Bonfire, from Page 1

“They don’t know what’s in store,” said Strode, when asked about the likelihood of upper-class raids on the Bonfire. “We’re expecting it.” Other freshmen didn’t expect upperclassmen to attack until later in the week. “If they come, I’ll sit back and laugh at them,” says freshman Tim Olmsted, an Engineering Physics major. “If they start getting close to the Bonfire, though, I’ll do what I can.”

In reference to past Flipside pages, Leibs joked that if the upperclassmen show their faces, “We’ll fling poo at them, because Alex Clerc would have it no other way.”

What does raiding involve? The New Res Bonfire coordinator, who wished to remain anonymous, said it starts with recon. “One or two of us are out there a few hours before.” He said he raids the freshmen because “It’s a tradition. We were raided my freshman year, I’m just passing it forward.” He added that “the raid is supposed to be all in good fun.” Chris Stevens, a senior Mechanical Engineer, echoed that sentiment, adding that he does it mostly “to mess with the freshmen. I have raided every year since sophomore year, several days of the week.” Both Stevens and the coordinator guarded the Bonfire their freshman year. “We used paintball guns, balloons, air horns, eggs, and big flashlights,” said Stevens.

When asked about raiding while he was at Rose, Erik Hayes said “There were no raids while I was at Rose, everyone was working to build the Bonfire.” However, he said that it was moved back to a freshman tradition over time. “Raiding has only started back up in the last 4 – 5 years.”

Sabbaticals, from Page 1

Poland also reflected, “Underclassman chemistry majors should start doing research now; it’s good stuff.”

Senior chemical engineering/chemistry major Christopher Overstreet worked under Allison on a project for Glas-Col. The company wanted to test an insulating blanket they designed for extruders. Overstreet quantified the thermal savings of this blanket.

Another interesting project was an attempt to chemically quantify the artistic techniques of local artist Pat Grigg, the wife of Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Cliff Grigg.

Allison also worked with Vincent Franco, who graduated in May of 2005, on volatility studies for a company called Symbian LLC, which specializes in sanitizers.

Alex Clerc
News Editor

The assassinations began on Friday, September 23rd at 3 p.m. RHA is once again holding a game of Assassins on the Rose-Hulman campus. This fall, 215 students signed up, an even bigger turnout than the 139 students who participated in last spring’s game. Last spring’s game was the only other round of Assassins that has been played at Rose-Hulman during the academic year in the recent past. John Koch was the winner and Jad Carson won second place and tallied the most kills in a game that lasted about three weeks. Assassins is also routinely played during Catapult, a Rose-Hulman summer program for high school students.

Alicia Offutt, the RHA off-campus chair, is the moderator for the game this year. The main point of the game, says Offutt, is “to have fun and get students out of their rooms.”

The object of the game is to be the last player “alive”. Each player is secretly assigned a “contract” who they must find and “kill” by touching the player on the shoulder and saying the kill code (more outlandish killing methods, such as using nerf guns at point blank range, are also acceptable). Every player in the game is simultaneously hunting down their target while

trying to avoid the player who is after them. Kills can happen anytime and anywhere, even off campus, except for classrooms and bedrooms – the “safe zones”. The grand prize this year is an iPod shuffle. Second prize is a \$40 gift certificate to Wal-Mart. A nerf gun will be given to the player with the most kills.

While most players don’t let the game interfere too much with their normal routines, some students go to great measures to make the game more entertaining or to gain a competitive edge.

Senior computer science/math major Eric Holk drew attention last Tuesday when he went to class carrying three nerf guns, including a nerf bazooka. “My friends and I bought them at Toys ‘R’ Us,” said Holk. “Its not very sneaky, but it looks cool.”

This was Holk’s first year playing. He used the internet to research his target, including the Rose-Hulman schedule lookup page, the Rose-Hulman search engine, facebook.com, and even his target’s personal web blog. “He put a fake picture and fake information on Facebook, but he kept updating his blog. I read about him killing other people.”

Many players also work together to gain an advantage over their opponents. One example of this is the team attitude of the third floor of Speed. Freshman Travis



Alex Clerc / Rose Thorn
You wouldn’t like Senior Eric Holk when he’s angry.

Mitchell explains one of the strategies: “We have a big guy, Brandon [Woodward]. He’s the muscle of the group. He announces the red alerts. As soon as we see a stranger, everyone yells ‘red alert’ and scampers back to the safe zones and Brandon asks the stranger what they’re doing.”

One resident of Speed 3 was even “excommunicated” for helping players who live on BSB 3. “Kids here are really hostile to him now,” said Nathan Adeir, another resident of Speed 3.

The team attitude is so strong on Speed 3 that players will even go on assassinating ‘raids’ in groups. “I always have a team with me when I go kill people – it

makes it easier,” said Mitchell. When asked if he was trying to win the iPod, Adeir responded, “I already have an iPod, so that doesn’t matter. I’m just doing it for the fun of the game.”

Mitchell had similar sentiments: “I care more about the Wal-Mart gift card. If I win the iPod, I’ll sell it or give it to Brandon [Woodward].”

Mitchell also commented on a positive side effect of playing the game. “I went to a lot of new places, met a lot of people, and got to know them.”

As the RHA Assassins moderator, one of Offutt’s responsibilities is to create immunity opportunities for the players. The point of the immunities is so that players don’t have to stay in their rooms all the time to feel safe – they can be out and stay active. Future immunity opportunities will include wearing a toothbrush behind the ear and wearing a red shirt or body paint for homecoming.

Offutt is also responsible for resolving disputes among players about the validity of kills. However, said Offutt, there has only been one such dispute so far.

Due to the popular response to the return of the game, RHA is considering holding additional games of Assassins in the winter and spring.

Commuters are eligible to play Assassins if they join RHA and pay the \$10 quarterly fee.

Professors get started at Rose

Ben Mann
Staff Writer

In the same way the human body creates new cells to keep the system running, Rose-Hulman must add new professors to the roster to keep the university in top running shape. This is the first in a series of articles dealing with new and visiting professors in the Rose community.

Ghan Bhatt, Visiting Professor of Mathematics, is working for Rose until at least July 2006. He very recently received his doctorate in mathematics at Iowa State University in December of 2004.

During and after his graduate education there, Bhatt worked as a “post-doc” at Iowa State. He was responsible for computer labs and was in charge of some of the web-based courses. He worked there for about a year before he came to

be a visiting professor at Rose.

“Students [at Rose] are reasonably better,” Bhatt says. He explained that at Iowa State, most

students seemed to be going through their math courses mechanically and just taking them because they were required. At Rose, he can assign a harder problem, and some students will actually be motivated and excited to undertake the challenge.

Bhatt has set some goals for his future career and plans to stick to them. “I hope to work in faculty

at some school, doing research and teaching,” Bhatt gives as his greatest goal, though he is not yet sure whether he will accomplish it at Rose.

A new face on the other side of the academic buildings is Scott McClellan, Visiting Professor of Chemical Engineering. He received his undergraduate degree at the Colorado School of

Minds and his Masters and Doctorate at Purdue. He just graduated from Purdue in May 2005.

Right out of school, McClellan hopped into the visiting profes-

sor position to see if teaching was for him. “I have a year and if I don’t like teaching, then I can just back out,” explains McClellan. It may be too early to tell for sure, but he says, “I would like to stay, and see how things transpire.”

This quarter, he is teaching Polymer Engineering, though his area of interest is in interfacial phenomena, which is, most basically, the study of molecules sticking to interfaces.

McClellan claims to be getting along well with both his students and his fellow professors. “Rose reminds me a lot of my undergraduate schooling,” he says nostalgically. The Colorado School of Minds is a similar small school that has a lot of emphasis on undergraduates. “Even though Rose is in a completely different state, it feels like I’m coming home.”

Even though Rose
is in a completely
different state, it
feels like I’m
coming home.

—Scott McClellan



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Out on CD

Roger Waters - *Ca Ira*

Wolf Parade - *Apologies to the Queen Mary*

Box Office Tops

1. *Flightplan*

2. *Corpse Bride*

3. *Just Like Heaven*

Wolf Parade worth hype

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

I want to take a moment to talk about really good songs – I mean the ones that absolutely blow you away every time you hear them. These are the ones you remember when you first heard them for the rest of your life, and somehow you’re not the same once you do. This is exactly how I felt when I first heard Wolf Parade’s “Fancy Claps”. The strange synthesizer opening sounded like something I could have recorded, all fuzzy and distorted. Then Wolf Parade just went insane with a thousand splendid ideas. Spastic harmony vocals, background clapping, and choppy snare

and bass drum work. Not to mention the infinitely awesome speed-synth breakdown after the first verse that’s nearly as cool as the hyper organs of the Animals’ “House of the Rising Sun”. Hey, this is a really good song.

I missed out on the “hype machine” surrounding Wolf Parade recently while fans anticipated their debut LP. After hearing a few of their songs, I decided to find out a little more about them. What I learned is that they’ve endured countless references and comparisons to Arcade Fire (they’re both from Montreal, right?) I’m not going to delve into the various and tedious trivia explaining this, but I am going

to offer one comparison that really matters: Wolf Parade’s *Apologies to the Queen Mary* not only sounds a little similar to Arcade Fire’s 2004 breakthrough *Funeral*, it’s probably even better.

Don’t begin to think that Wolf Parade is just trying to capitalize on another band’s recent success. In fact, the only song that really sounds like it could’ve been written by Arcade Fire is “Modern World” (particularly the backing vocals on during the close of the song). Imagine for a moment a more convulsive version of *Funeral*, where more of the songs sound like “Neighborhood #2 (Lai-ka)”. Throw in a little extra synthesizer work, and you’ve probably got an idea of where *Apologies to the Queen Mary*’s

sound is.

Opener and lead single, “You are a Runner and I am My Father’s Son” is a lot like Gorillaz’s “Clint Eastwood;” it forces you to bob your head and all around sounds like “Clint Eastwood” with respect to pace. Spencer Krug’s vocals sound remarkably like Isaac Brock (who produced the album, by the way) on this song. It will probably be the most instantly likable song on the album for most people, making it an obvious choice to release. “I’ll Believe in Anything” takes a listen or two to adjust to the vocal style, but once you get there, you start to catch probably the best song lyrically on *Apologies...* Krug promis-

Band: Wolf
Parade
Album:
Apologies to the Queen Mary
Rating: 9.5/10



http://www.spin.com/features/band_of_the_day/2005/09/050912_wolfparade/
Wolf Parade has not only released one of the best albums of 2005, but are bringing attention to awesome mustaches everywhere.

es escape from everyday life – “I’ll take you where nobody knows you, and nobody gives a damn” – but at the same time is asking for “your blood, your bones, your voice, and your ghost”.

Dan Boeckner shares vocal duties on half of the songs also, and is generally less unpredictable than Krug, who might become annoying over a whole album. One of the two standouts featuring Boeckner is “Dear Sons and Daughters of Hungry Ghost”. The bridge to the close of the track is fantastic, featuring some classic gang vocals. Boecker claims “I gotta new plan for the people – people, I can trick ‘em into thinking anything”. The second standout track is the above-mentioned “Modern World”. The song sounds more somber than any other, particularly the twangy guitar and resonating backup vocals.

I did find myself missing the

spaz antics of “Fancy Claps” the first time listening through *Apologies...* in its entirety. Most of the album is mellower. The end especially slowed, but is by no means worse because of it. “This Heart’s on Fire” closes the album beautifully and simply. “It’s getting better all the time,” Boeckner repeats, and by the end of the album, you really believe him.

Once I was over the initial adjusting to the music, I was ready to accept the entire album as a true triumph. Even though most of *Apologies...* is less energetic than “Fancy Claps”, Krug and Boeckner sing with such vigor that they give the impression of energy. This is a trick that all good bands have to learn eventually. Wolf Parade has gotten this trick right on the first try, and not too many bands come to mind that have been able to release such an impressive debut.

Roll me up into your life

Gregory Weir
Humor Editor

In the beginning, there was *Katamari Damacy*, the game that quietly rolled onto the PlayStation 2 and began absorbing the hearts and minds of gamers tired of the empty night of unoriginal video games.

It was that one game where you rolled a ball around, getting bigger and bigger as you picked up first paperclips and pushpins, then people and pandas, and eventually razing entire continents with a screaming sphere of skyscrapers and rainbows.

The game was so popular that they made a sequel. And that’s the plot of Namco’s new game *We Love Katamari*.

No, really. That’s the plot.

You, reprising your role as The Prince, must field the requests of the fans of your unappreciative father, the colossal King of All Cosmos. This involves rolling up balls of stuff to a certain size in a certain time, collecting one thousand paper cranes from a set of classrooms, or rolling up the perfect head for a snowman.

The experience is trippy and dreamlike, with the self-absorbed King dropping drug references right and left, only ordering you down to a rocket-panda-filled

level when a fan compliments him on his chin or his magnificently tights-clad legs.

The levels are more widely varied than those in the original, with more diverse goals like feeding a sumo wrestler or rolling up cars as you zip around a racetrack. This helps make the game less of a copycat sequel and more of an inevitable elaboration on the original, simple formula.

The game also looks and feels better; the graphics appear to have been updated, with smoother edges and deeper vistas. Likewise, the physics feel a bit more advanced, making ricochets and jumps more impressive.

The sound, unfortunately, is one area in which *We Love Katamari* falls short. While the sounds of people and buildings being rolled up are top-notch, the soundtrack isn’t up to par. There are a few songs that get stuck in my head, but none as amazing as *Katamari Damacy*’s “Lonely Rolling Star” or “Cherry Blossom Color Season.” I especially question the wisdom of including “Sunbaked Savannah,” a medley of the original *Katamari Damacy* soundtrack performed with synthesized animal noises.

Of course, the big question is: is it fun? The answer is a resounding yes. The bizarre universe is a con-

stant source of amusement (“Why are that cat and that dog in that submerged car?” “Well, at least they’re wearing snorkels.”), and the simplistic gameplay is simply sublime.

You’ll get a lot of play out of the game, too. An experienced player of the first game could get to the ending in about five hours, but the King himself admits that rolling the credits at that point is jumping the gun. There is hours more content in the game, and this is one of those games that’s fun just to play when you’ve got a half-hour free. With records to beat, rules variants to play, and a late-game collection mission that can only be described as intimidating, this game will last you a while.

And the bang:buck ratio? Believe it or not, this is a budget game. Thirty dollars will get you an eternity of rolling goodness. Be aware, however, that the game’s hard to find; as of last weekend, the only local retail stores in Terre Haute that had it were GameSpot and Walmart, and GameSpot was sold out. This is one game for which you should turn to the Internet.

The Katamari dynasty has gotten game developers more excited than they’ve been in a long time, and the popularity of such a strange game concept startled Namco into funding a sequel that game creator Keita Takahashi said would never exist. If you enjoy good things, you’ll definitely enjoy Namco’s fun and hilarious *We Love Katamari*.



Teknikalmeltdown brings the dance

Ben Mann
Staff Writer

What do you get when you mix free, great music and a bunch of sweaty, dancing engineers? That’s right; you get the long-anticipated Teknikalmeltdown III sponsored by the one and only WMHD 90.7 FM!!! There were grooving techno beats, plenty of cool people to hang out with, wonderful and talented DJ’s, and quite possibly, the only thing missing was you!

If you were not in attendance for the dance party that you would never forget last Friday/Saturday from 9:00 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., then you missed out on more than just a party. There was, of course, the free immersion of oneself into the euphoric melodies of Trance and DnB (Drum and Bass).

There was a collection of the coolest people on campus. There were giant monkeys. There was a pulled fire alarm. And most importantly, whether you are a hardcore fan of the music or not, it was a great way to unwind by jumping violently around a dark room swinging phosphorescent sticks around your head as a steady stream of intense sound waves were being forced down your ear ca-

nals.

Not being a great connoisseur of the genre myself, I was unaware there were several classifications of techno music, such as Trance and DnB. It turns out that there are several different types, such as “Hard Dance,” “Progressive,” and many others.

The rhythm, timing, tempo, and all sorts of elements are drastically different between these types. Even I, as just a mild fan, could easily feel a difference after exposing myself to a selection of several different types.

Lots of people like to look down on this style of music and the people who listen to it, calling them geeks or the like. But to those of you out there on campus, I wish to say a quick word. Take a deep breath and open your mind. Look around you, Geek; you are at Rose. There are only two types of people here. People who are geeks and people who are geeks in denial.

Thank you so much, WMHD, for this wonderful event. Teknikalmeltdown IV cannot come soon enough.

For more information about electronica genres, visit Digitally Imported at <http://www.di.fm>.

Corpse Bride dead on its feet

But it's still far superior to *The Man* and *Lord of War*

Patrick Barrett
StaffWriter

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Christopher Lee, Deep Roy, and Danny Elfman are great...in Tim Burton's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Not that they are bad in Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride*, but their characters are just uninteresting. The story is based on actual events in 19th century Europe in which anti-Semites waylaid Jewish wedding parties and killed the bride (the bearer of future Jews). The bride would then be buried in her wedding gown. A twist of fiction is added in the form of

The people who really enjoyed *Nightmare* will probably be the ones who enjoy this one too. But they'll say it wasn't as good as the original

Russian folktale that Burton's film is based on. As the story goes, Depp is in an arranged marriage. His parents are newly rich and want to get into the social ring. His bride-to-be, Helena Bonham Carter, is of newly poor folk who need some money. When the two first meet they hit it off extremely well, which I could only conclude from the fact that this is the only time they talk in private yet soon after are in love. They are practicing their vows when Depp can't get it right and ruins the whole thing. He runs off embarrassed or scared into the woods. As he practices his vows he places

the ring on what he thinks is a branch, but as we all know it's the finger of the corpse bride! He runs scared, she catches him, and soon they're both underground where all dead corpses go to drink and have fun. That's the setup for the movie; the rest is rather boring and fairly easy to figure out from the beginning. You can easily decipher who the antagonist of the movie is when he first appears on screen, and you can also correctly infer what evil act he has done, and intends to do. There are many good and bad short jokes, mostly puns and quite often cliché. The songs were entertainment challenged and not of the same caliber as Danny Elfman's usual material. In *The Nightmare Before Christmas* songs like "This is Halloween" and "What's This?" were instant classics, as opposed to these songs, which are instantly forgettable. There are really only two good things about the movie. One is the brilliant-looking, technically



<http://blog.volume12.net/d/2005>
Corpse Bride's animation is done using impressive stop-motion

impressive stop-motion animation, though there isn't really any beautiful scenery. The second is when a skeleton says, "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn," from the amazing movie *Gone With the Wind*. And I suppose a close third is the fact that the movie is only 74 minutes long and didn't take up much of my night. Overall I give the movie

2 stars out of 5, and though *Corpse Bride* has nothing to do with *Nightmare* story wise you can think of it as a sequel in the sense that people who really enjoyed *Nightmare* will probably be the ones who enjoy this new one. But, as with most sequels, they'll say it wasn't as good as the original. **P.S.** *Just Like Heaven* wasn't that great after all.



http://images.usatoday.com/life/_photos/2004/2004-03
"The Office" airs Tuesday night at 9:30p.m.

Cubicle life

Christina Davis
StaffWriter

Are you curious about how humorous a 9-5 office job can be? I was wondering the same thing as I sat down to watch NBC's fairly new sitcom, "The Office", a few weeks ago. The show first aired in March 2005, replacing the mid-season flops. It was brought back for the Fall 2005 lineup to air Tuesday nights at 9:30 p.m. Unlike NBC's previous poor choices of Americanized BBC television (such as "The Weakest Link" and "The Coupling"), "The Office" is no doubt a success. "The Office" is a side-splitting "mockumentary" sitcom starring Steve Carell (the summer box off hit "The Forty-Year-Old Virgin" and "The Daily Show") who plays Michael Scott, a regional manager of Dunder Mifflin paper supply company in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Scott's crude humor and self-delusion, mixed with the oddities of other characters, creates a very entertaining show. In one particular episode, Scott arrogantly shows off his "World's Greatest Boss" mug, highlighting that he is very adored by his co-workers. Eventually, however, he shamefully admits that he has purchased the mug for himself.

The supporting cast, although not well-known, does a superb job of providing comedic support. These fresh faces strengthen the sitcom by enabling you to relate to an actual office environment (one in which Drew Carey is not sitting in the cubicle next to you). For example, fresh face Rainn Wilson (Six-feet Under), who plays Dwight Schrute, the assistant to the regional manager, is painstakingly humorous. In one episode, Schrute, who is always wrapped up in office gossip, attempts to create alliances with his coworkers to avoid corporate downsizing. In addition, he positions the office water cooler beside his desk in an effort to overhear office rumors. Sharing office work space with Schrute is Jim Halpert (John Krasinski, "Kinsey") who advances "The Office by encouraging Scott and Schrute's schemes. For example, Halpert convinces Schrute to hide in a cardboard box in the warehouse in order to spy on what Schrute believes to be a meeting of another office alliance. So, the next time you find yourself swamped with homework on Tuesday night and are looking for a well-deserved break, consider checking out "The Office".



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Celebrity justice strikes again



Here's your new opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

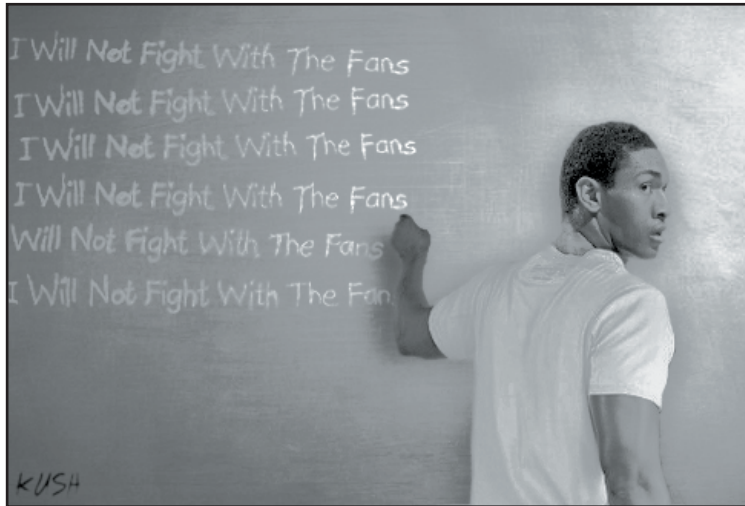
Last week, Indiana Pacers basketball players Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, and Jermaine O'Neal pleaded "no contest" to assault and battery charges in a Rochester Hills, Michigan district court. The charges were pressed as a result of the brawl between players and fans near the end of a Pacers game against the Detroit Pistons on November 19, 2004.

The event was triggered when Artest fouled Pistons player Ben Wallace and the angered Wallace pushed Artest in the face. Both teams jumped to the floor and pandemonium ensued, which was aggravated when Artest was hit by a fan's beverage laden-cup. His fragile ego shattered, Artest charged into the stands, dealing out punches to many of the fans in the lower tiers, with Jackson following suit.

After the players had been pulled out of the stands and the officials had ended the game, fans rushed the court as the teams were heading for the locker rooms. A fan in a Pistons jersey began yelling at Artest, and was immediately dealt a leveling blow by the disgruntled player. O'Neal, not wanting to be left out, decked another fan on the court before the team exited to the locker rooms while getting concessions dumped on them by more irate fans.

Artest, Jackson, and O'Neal were each sentenced to a year of probation, 60 hours of community service, an anger management course, and fined \$250. Charlie Haddad, one of the fans knocked down on the court, was sentenced to two years of probation and 100 hours of community service. Haddad's punishment for being on the receiving end of a punch was nearly twice as much as that of each of the NBA stars. I bet he wishes he was famous.

The sentences given to the Pacers players fall dismally short of justice. As trained professionals, these men should be able to handle themselves in a game situation, no matter what



The lesser publicized part of Ron Artest's sentence, for obvious reasons.

happens to disrupt the usual flow of events. The raucous behavior of fans is a regrettable occurrence, but accepting this is a condition that basketball players agree to before they place one foot on the court. After all, they are playing basketball, not golf.

The fines placed on the players are also not proportional to their offense. \$250 is spare change compared to the multi-million dollar contracts these

men pull down. O'Neal, who had the highest income, made \$14.8 million dollars that season. That means his fine amounts to 0.0017 percent of his annual NBA salary, not including whatever endorsement money he received that year. If the fines charged to Artest, Jackson, and O'Neal are meant to discourage future assault charges, I doubt they will have any effect.

Besides the fines, each player was put on probation for one year

and assigned 60 hours of community service. Once again, this seems far from a punishment. Community service is likely something that the NBA encourages its players to do anyway, and according to Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor John Pirofesa, these players' service is likely to be teaching children the value of good sportsmanship. The irony is not lost on me.

The way these men conducted themselves was according to the basest level of human nature. They allowed their rash anger to drive them to commit of assault and battery on people that they did not even know; nor could they have been sure that they were attacking the fans that had thrown things at them in the first place.

The income and "role model" status of Artest, Jackson, and O'Neal elevate them to a social tier in which they should be an example of respectable and decent behavior. This was no reason to bail them out of the jail time an average person would have paid for committing such reprehensible acts. The Pacers' sentence should have sent a clearer message to the entire sports world: act like a criminal and you will be treated as a criminal.

Homecoming of the greats

Ryan Schultz
Staff Writer

Rose-Hulman throws a truly spectacular Homecoming. The speeches are fantastic, the Greek chants are exciting and funny, and the fireworks are awesome. And, of course, the Bonfire is incredible.

And that's what I want to talk about: the Bonfire. Yeah, everything else is übercool, no doubt about it, but to me the bonfire is it. It is the pinnacle of the Homecoming celebration. It is a physical manifestation of the hard work, blood, sweat and tears of the freshmen who erected it (and metaphorically, of the hard work that freshmen will have to do in years to come). The Bonfire is a tradition steeped in ritual, but more importantly, ingrained with a persistent, unwavering, devotion to excellence. It also is a beacon, burning for those who are here now, the promise of the future, and, most importantly, those who came before.

Yes, my esteemed student peers at this great institute, it is the alumni who have paved our way for us. Their hard work and proven excellence has helped this tiny school in a nowhere town gain the miraculous ranking that it has held for seven years and will, I'm convinced, hold for many years to come.

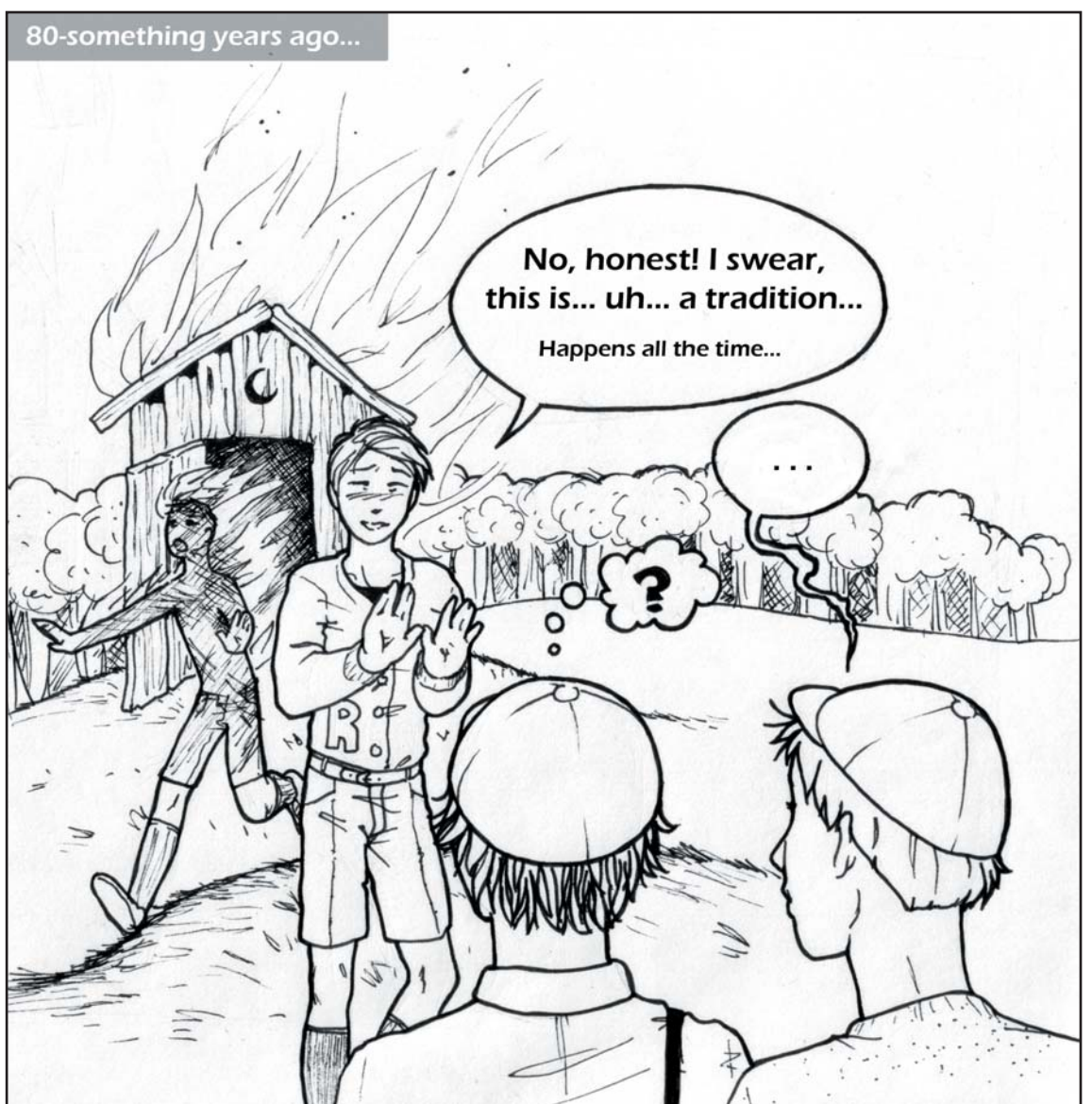
As I was looking around the Bonfire last year, I noticed the

faces and the conversations. Everybody and everything was illuminated. Alumni of all ages—those who have graduated in the past five years and those who graduated nearly 60 years ago—were engaged in conversation. And I'm not talking about superficial, meaningless conversation; these were conversations of the Greats. It is quite a feeling to look around a gathering of thousands of people and realize that every single one of them is not just gifted, but downright brilliant. For those of us who are on campus day in and day out, it can be easy to lose sight of how gifted we all truly are.

So this year, I encourage you to step back from the excitement and realize what an outstanding group of people has congregated at this best-in-class institution. If things have started getting to you as first quarter kicks into a higher gear, just take a moment to consider what an overwhelming privilege it is to work day after day with some of the most brilliant people you'll ever meet.

Homecoming at Rose is just like it is at every other school in the country...on one level. Once you get past the football game, Homecoming at Rose is much, much more. It is a gathering of mental horsepower, geared toward the future. And the future, like the venerable Bonfire, will burn bright indeed.

1000 Words by Erin Hudson



Tell me how inappropriate that burning guy is!
e-mail: opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Big players, big moves, big Time



From the sidelines

Alvin Anassi
Staff Writer

With each week, it becomes more and more evident that the Fightin' Engineer football team has the drive, talent, speed, and dedication to go far this year. The progression of the team is widely known as the product of head coach Ted Karras. For those who don't know, Coach Karras was a four-year letter winner for Northwestern University on the defensive line; and with a degree in psychology, he knows how to put together the right group of guys and staff to produce winners. Quite frankly, he's all we need.

Big Players

Under Karras' tutelage, starting players running back Charlie Key, Brian Phelps (fullback), quarterback Cameron Hummel, Pat Ludwig (a right tackle), Bryce Beckstrom (a cornerback), defensive end Josh Clark, Steve Hawkins (a strong safety), and Tim Wilson (a middle linebacker) have all learned what it takes to be big players in the Rose Football fraternity.

Notably, Key is closing in on the record for career rushing touchdowns with 35; the record is currently held by Carl Herakovich with 41. Key has 12 on the season. To completely round him off, the double major running back is continuously

modest, sharing every victory with all of his teammates.

Hummel continues to show his leadership ability with his poise in our Fun and Gun-Balanced offensive attack. In the huddle, he's calm, alert, and always in the zone. Under center he's a defense's worst nightmare with his unmatched ability to make decisions on the fly and put the ball on the money down after down.

Phelps is perhaps one of the greatest fullbacks Rose has ever seen. I do believe that linebackers cringe when they hear the cadence, as it usually means that they will be meeting a Mack truck in the hole. Phelps is virtually unstoppable in the middle and a deadly receiver in the flats as corners share in the linebacker's plight.

If you ask Pat Ludwig, he'll tell you running is his passion. As the only senior on the offensive line, Ludwig provides the younger linemen – Nick Zee-Cheng, Ryan Pattenau, Tim Hachfeld, and myself – with leadership and knowledge. He's definitely our stud linemen and he proves it day by day, game by game.

Clark is one of the two defensive captains and his defensive play is never off the mark. Clark will be a four-year letter winner for Rose and his presence over the years will continue to help push this team further after he is gone, as he is a shining example of defensive speed and containment. In last week's contest, he recorded 2.5 sacks, including a solo, and along with the rest of the defensive line and linebackers, he helped hold the Yeomen to only 44 yards on the ground.

Beckstrom will be at

full strength next week for Homecoming—something we've all been waiting for. Beckstrom is the type of player that will make big plays when you need them and, when teamed with Brett Bueltel, the duo wraps a defensive blanket over the opposition's receivers.

Bueltel is a proven athlete and since his switch to defense last season, he's delivered with 11 interceptions, eight from last year, and he's only getting started. Recently, he had one in the end zone and one called back that he caught on the boundary line.

Big Moves

Several big plays were made last week and some special moves came out for the crowd. Offensively, seniors Dan Downey and Ryan Gulden recorded huge momentum catches. Downey had 2 catches for 55 yards and Gulden had a 61-yard reception from Jason Dickey, another wide receiver, and after catching the ball, made three distinguishing moves to gain a few more yards. Freshman receiver Nate Richter continues to be a solid target with a single catch for 29 yards. Hummel added to the action with our shortest scoring drive on the year with a one-play 75-yard dash to the end zone in the late 1st quarter.

Defensively, Mike Alto continues to be an anchor for the defense. He always plays with all his heart and in last week's game he recorded 5 tackles, one for a loss, and a big interception in the 1st quarter.

Austin Hastings proved again that blitzes rattle quarterbacks as



Charlie Key breaks a tackle for one of his five touchdowns.

Rose-Hulman News

he snaked through the Yeoman offensive line and tackled the quarterback on a draw play that set up a Yeoman punt. Others with great games include Zach Humbert, Drew Sandahl, Nick Klaser, and Paul Spreen.

Big Time

Coach Karras praised the scout teams last week, as the result of the game showed that we were ready for Oberlin's every move. It's Homecoming tomorrow, so I'll let you know what to expect. Offensively, our bread and butter has always been to pound it on the ground, so Charlie knows where the holes are in the Trinity defense and expects to exploit them. You can expect the same superb

play from Hummel and Phelps. Ludwig and I look to redeem ourselves from the sacks we gave up and the rest of the offensive line looks to rack up the yards for Charlie and advance his standings on the all-time lists. Defensively, Beckstrom will lead the secondary against the Trinity receivers as the linemen try to limit the movement of the ball on the ground. Trinity is coming off of a bye week as hurricane Rita did not allow them a game last week, so they'll be rested and ready to go. Trinity is ranked 12th in Division III football, so this game is widely seen as a David and Goliath game. With the right practice, poise, and execution, we will knock the giant off its feet.

Graduating Seniors



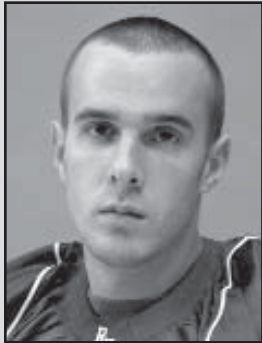
Adam Beccue



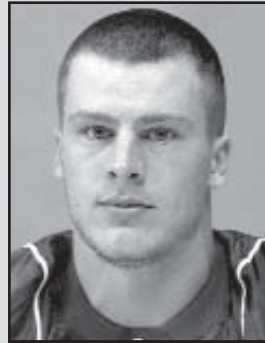
Brian Phelps



Brian Roser



Bryan Pape



Bryce Beckstrom



Charlie Key



Cody Terkhorn



Cory Wright



Dan Downey



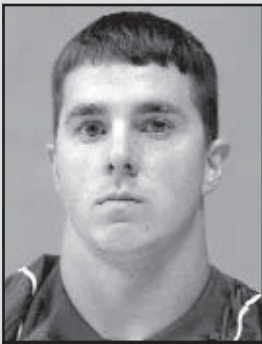
JD Oliverius



John Baer



Josh Clark



Kris Renfro



Pat Ludwig



Ryan Gulden



Scott Schlegel

The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE



This Day in History

In 1949, the Berlin Airlift ends, as the final load of coal is dropped over West Berlin. While fortunate for the citizens of West Berlin, this tragically put out of work the 209th Division of Wingwalking Deliverymen, much-lauded for their courier-related heroism.

In Addition

From time to time, I remind myself that these days are not those that in days past dazed us, with the “heys” and “hoorays” that lazed about in May and laid in the shade. They did not stay in the fray one more day. For shame.

- Top Ten Most Terrible Homecoming Pranks
- 10.TP the fountain in Scum Pond

9. Convince alumni that the White Chapel is a stolen piece of the Sydney Opera House

8. Demonstrate your school spirit and witty sense of literalism by coming home for the weekend

7. Get Midgley elected homecoming queen

6. Move the bonfire 4 feet to the left

5. Change every road sign between here and Texas so Trinity shows up at Purdue

4. Place a whoopee cushion on one of the bleacher seats in the stadium

3. Tell Hertz you will think he's cool if he sits on the whoopee cushion

2. Relabel the football field's lines in fractions of pi

1. Get everyone ready to light the bonfire and instead tell the freshmen to take it down
- Aaron Meles

The Useful Advice of John Dullard

Hey everybody! John Dullard here to rock out the advice goodness. I'm happy to report that someone took action and partook in the advice relationship!

Yo,

The best place to hide from anybody is a library; nobody ever goes in there.

-Patrick

Thanks, Patrick! This advice came in handy! The librarians called off their assassins since I had forsaken Google to return to the library. Little did they know that I had done my Googling already and was just hiding from them! Ha!

I've found myself in another situation. The guys down the hallway play their music *real* loud. That music nobody can stand with its lyrics and its drums and its whatnot! Argh! It makes me so agitated I can't find the words to describe it.

So I took matters into my own hands. I got out of bed, hiked up my pants and marched right over to their door. A student answered the door. I looked him right in the eye and said "You, sir, have your music up too loud."

"What? My music is up too loud! I can't hear you!" is what he would have said had we been in a movie that REALLY wanted to be funny. Instead he said, "No. You, sir, have your ears down too quiet." I was baffled. I stood there with my mouth half-open as the cogs in my head struggled to find a retort. Seconds turned to moments, and before moments could turn to minutes the door was closed on me.

I pulled my pants back down a little bit; they were starting to get rather uncomfortable. Not the type who gives up easily, I returned to my room and did the thing that any good Rose-Hulman Humanities Major would do: I drew a diagram. A diagram that didn't just show what I wanted to do, but how I felt on the inside and my reflections upon what *The Great Gatsby* meant to society.

Then, I left to put my plan into action. I crept past the door of the perpetrators down into the basement. There I found a locked room. I kicked the door open and began throwing switches on the breakers. There was silence throughout the dorm. I turned to return to my room and sleep in peace.

As I turned I tripped on my clumsy self. My hands reached out into the darkness and found only a hot pipe to grab onto. I retracted my scalded hand and my head collided with the doorknob of the door that had closed behind me. That's the last thing I remember before waking up duct-taped horizontally to the side of the building with a note on me that read "[*expletive deleted*]! If you [*expletive deleted*]..." Basically, it said that I shouldn't mess with the breakers anymore.

So to avoid duct tape incidents, does anyone know how I can turn my ears up so they aren't "down too quiet"? The websites I've found don't seem very helpful. Besides, I really don't know where to find an industrial-sized C-clamp.

Send your advice to flipside@rose-hulman.edu, subject: "Help for John!"

Wacky Prof Quotes

"The first thing you're going to do is to go... (*bangs head against whiteboard*)"

-- Prof. Rickert, on the problem-solving process

"I can make anything up and you'll believe me."

-- Prof. Merkle, who is unethical

"I want to make lots of mistakes."

-- Prof. Wollowski, setting goals high

"Hitmen, hitwomen... I'm not sure what the going rate is; I haven't used one recently."

-- Prof. Wollowski, reminiscing

"When I was a kid, I had those Velcro-covered balls that you threw at a felt dartboard. They were really good for sticking in my mother's big bouff hair back in the '70s."

-- Prof. Morris, who charge-coupled your mom

"Oh, it gets even more whacked out than that."

-- Prof. Rickert, on the whacked outedness of power sets

"You're going to be pointing stuff at people and they're going to be ultraviolated or whatever."

-- Prof. Chenoweth, on modern art

"When I went to high school we took handguns... and kept shotguns in our lockers. You had to have something to do after school!"

-- Prof. Clark, who shot uphill both ways

"Do you guys know any sophomores? Do they seem normal to you?"

-- Prof. Galinaitis, who's figured out their secret

"If you hear about the new sexy word in optics, of course, it's superluminous."

-- Prof. Duree, being sexy

"Now I'm going to use a big word that I think is impressive... 'are.'"

-- Prof. Morris, expanding his vocabulary

"We're going to beat it to death until it doesn't wiggle and then we're going to beat it some more."

-- Prof. Graves, practicing brutal mathematics

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to flipside@rose-hulman.edu

It Really Can Fix Anything

Everyone knows the old familiar adage, "duct tape can fix everything," but no one says it seriously. It can't fix everything, right? There must be problems in the world that don't include "use duct tape" as one of their solutions.

But after exhaustive testing, I am still amazed at the versatility of this adhesive. I thought you might like to hear about some of the more interesting applications of duct tape that I've encountered.

Duct tape can fix:

• your unruly bikini line and unsightly nipple hair.

• a tear in the space-time continuum (trust me, it worked).

• a broken heart. I have this friend (let's just call him me... I mean, Randolph) who recently got dumped hard. So I fixed the situation by making him a duct tape girlfriend. It took about seven rolls of duct tape to fashion her, but it was totally worth it. I named her Nicole, but she usually goes by Sticky Nikki. Anyways, Randolph and Nicole are together all the time and doing great... just don't ask them about their sex life. I don't think it's fun for either of them.


• a decent meal. Why, just last night, Nikki made a delightful casserole dish for me... I mean, Randolph.

• the World Series. For example, I heard that mobsters fixed the '04 World Series in favor of the Red Sox by using duct tape to bound and gag all the talented Cubans on the New York Yankee's roster and replace them with their clumsy Puerto Rican doppelgangers.

• dogs. An expensive veterinary procedure is totally unnecessary. All that is needed to prevent procreation is a strategically placed piece of duct tape.

I encourage you to get out there and find your own uses for the miracle that is duct tape. Just one piece of advice – if you're going to do anything with your bikini line, have some ice handy. Happy taping!

-Alex Clerc



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn

Duct tape graffitti.

The Little Line o' Litigious Lard: The content of the Flipside is intended to be purely humorous, and it does not represent the opinions of the Rose Thorn or Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. It doesn't represent anybody's opinions. There's this really cool game review in the entertainment section. All material is copyright of its owner. Any unattributed material was created by Gregory Weir. The rest of the paper ain't so bad either. Plus, the editing is totally hawt.